

*Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool,
a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor.*
~ Sholom Aleichem

Ashland to host Cuba Caravan 7 • Lotus Rising Community Library 8
Honey Bee Dieoffs 11

2014
JULY
ISSUE 14

Rogue Valley Community Press

FREE

Staying socially active this summer

Stay informed and get involved with these summer social justice campaigns

BY JASON HOUK

Summer has always been a slow season for social justice organizing. Students are out of school. The political campaigns are over and the November races have not yet begun. Organizers are tired and folks are more interested in scheduling vacations than organizing direct actions. But the work for social justice doesn't take a vacation. This summer proves to be hot one with many interesting issues and causes to engage in. Whether you are interested in staying informed about your favorite issues, getting connected with your city government or hitting the bricks by canvassing for the November election, this article can help you get started.

GMO Right To Know

Oregon Right to Know's GMO Labeling Campaign is in full swing and it looks like organizers will have their 90,000

signatures to qualify for the ballot. Volunteers are needed for the next stage of the campaign. Oregonians can expect to see a huge and expensive campaign to keep this from passing. "Right here in Oregon—companies like Monsanto are fighting on every front to defeat regulations or policies on food safety standards and consumers' right to know how their food was produced and what is in it," warns Elizabeth Swager of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign. To volunteer, visit www.oregonrighttoknow.org, or email info@oregonrighttoknow.org.

Divest from Fossil Fuels

The Divestment Project Team of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) developed a resolution asking the Ashland City Council to urge the state Treasurer and State Boards to divest from



On the campus of Southern Oregon University this summer, students will be growing and selling produce. See page 11.
Photo by Center for Sustainability

fossil fuels. In Oregon, city funds are lodged with state entities, the Local Government Investment Pool and the Public Employees Retirement System. These funds (Oregon taxpayer funds), managed by their Boards, are invested in part in the fossil fuel companies that are committed to orchestrating planetary disaster. Several public

entities across Oregon are asking the state to reconsider where our funds should be invested. Specifically, the request is that funds be removed from fossil fuel companies and invested instead in renewable energy companies. At the June Ashland City Council, members of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now presented a Resolution to Divest

from Fossil Fuels to the and asked them to support the resolution. Supported by some 30 SOCAN volunteers in the audience, members of the Divestment Team addressed their city council urging adoption of that resolution. Contact the Ashland City Council at <http://ashland.or.us/CouncilContact.asp> to and urge them to put this issue on their next City Council agenda. For information on the status of this action, visit <http://socan.info>.

World Peace

The last Iraq war cost hundreds of thousands of lives and billions of dollars. Let's not do it again. Reject U.S. military intervention and support U.S. diplomacy which engages key parties inside and outside of Iraq including Iran---the most stable country in the region. The least helpful idea is for the United States to

ACTIVE 5

29th annual Hiroshima Nagasaki vigil

This year's theme is 'Stop the Madness, Create a SANE World.'

BY VANESSA HOUK



When an educational maze winds around the edge of the Ashland Plaza, to teach about the dangers of atomic technology as a thousand colorful origami peace cranes dance with the warm August breezes, it signals that an annual peace vigil is underway. Every August 6 through August 9, members of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), peace activists and community members gather in the Ashland Plaza to remember the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to share the dangers of nuclear weapons and the environmental hazards of radiation contamination.

August marks the beginning of "Nuclear Free Future Month", a worldwide movement aimed to reign in nuclear energy in an effort to create a safer and healthier world. On the 69th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, WILPF will once again create a space for the community to gather together to commemorate these shared experiences and to teach the history of nuclear weapons and the impact on local and international communities. This years theme is "Stop the madness, create a SANE world" and events include featured speaker Charles K. Johnson from Physicians for Social Responsibility, films, live music and more. The National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE) formed in the late 1950's to "stimulate debate on the hazards of nuclear testing." Years later the group merged and became Peace Action. As the largest grassroots peace network in the US, Peace Action remains an integral group that is active in changing policy nationwide. Ceremonies begin at 8:00 AM on August 6th at the entrance



Releasing sunflowers at 2013 Hiroshima Nagasaki Vigil
Photo by Candy Wooding

to Lithia Park with music and speakers and at 8:15 AM (the minute the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki) there will be a moment of silence as a candle is lit in remembrance. After the ceremony the public is invited to visit the maze and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. In 1981 the city of Ashland was designated a nuclear free zone and in 1998 Ashland became a member of Mayors for Peace and joined what has become 6,127 cities in 158 countries and regions with a shared goal. "Around the world people unite to remember the human cost of atomic weapons and to visualize a world without the threat of nuclear catastrophes. They come together to listen to speakers talk

about their experiences, listen to music and to learn from the past." The 29th annual Hiroshima Nagasaki vigil is sponsored by the Ashland branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Co-sponsors include Peace House, One Sunny Day Initiatives & OSDI Japan, Red Earth Descendants, Medford Citizens for Peace & Justice, Rogue Valley Peace Choir, Ashland First Congregational United Church of Christ, Japanese Association of Southern Oregon, SOU United Nations Club, Rogue Valley Peace Veterans, South Mountain Friends Meeting, Veterans for Peace-Rogue Valley Chapter 156, JC Pacific Green Party, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice, Vinapa Foundation, and Unity Church.

Vigil Schedule

- August 6 - 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
Ceremony: Indigenous Peoples. Dancing Spirit Drum, Ashland Plaza
- August 6 - 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
Origami Crane Folding instrct., Ashland Plaza
- August 7 - 6:00 PM**
Peace Rock, Musicians (Rob Lowry, Kim Griswell, Neil Holland), Ashland Plaza
- August 7 - 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
Talk & Haiku workshop, Nina Egert (drop in), Ashland Plaza
- August 8 - 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
Talk & Haiku workshop , Nina Egert (drop in), Ashland Plaza
- August 8 - 6:00 PM**
Masako Cross, Musician, Ashland Plaza
- A **closing ceremony** which will commemorate the victims of Nagasaki will be in the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park on **August 9 at 7:00 PM**. There will be a sunflower ceremony, speakers and song.

Editorials & Opinion

Dear readers...
Letter from the editor

July saunters in like a tired old dog searching for water as temperatures rise way above what we've all grown used to and then just like that, it's Independence Day once again. Time is like that, I guess.

Main Street will swell with 20,000 people who will arrive in good moods, ready to sit with family and friends and watch a parade that marches by for several hours as groups, businesses and individuals come together to celebrate life in our beautiful valley. And yet even in the middle of the cheer on the streets in this town that I love so much, unanswered questions still lay silent.

The cover story on the Rogue Valley Community Press in July 2013 read, "Five years without answers, the unsolved murders of Dave Lewis and Troy Carney", which reiterated two unsolved crimes. As I write that my mind immediately jumps to nineteen year old David Grubbs, whose body was discovered on the bike path near Walker Elementary

School. I think of his family and friends and know that every holiday since his murder holds them in "after" as their lives were forever changed.

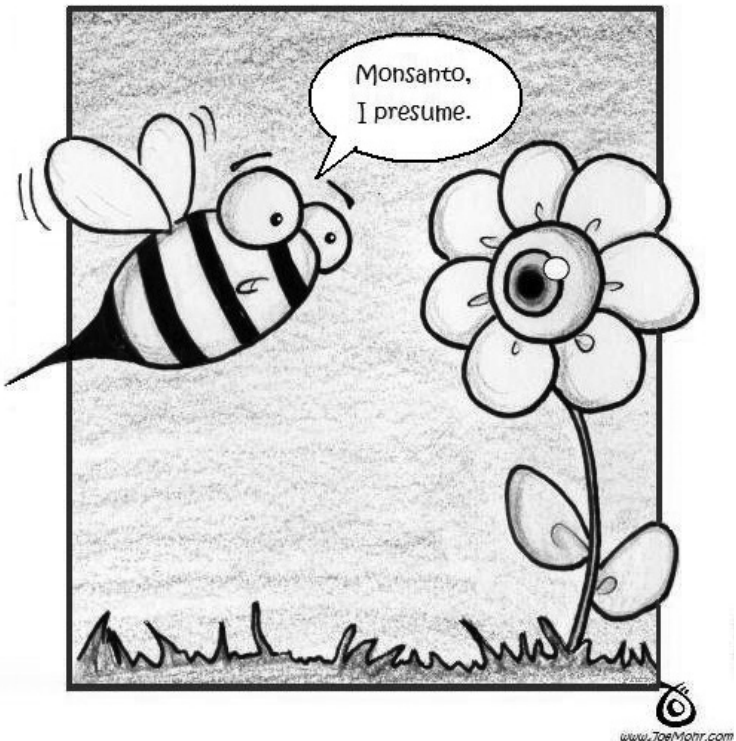
This city with it's brightly colored flag lined streets and sweet, friendly people is a stark contrast against the murders of those three men and I can't help but try to keep some sort of an ongoing vigil going through the pages of our Community Press in hope that eventually it falls into the hands of the person who has those answers. I believe that some folks have heard things and that theres part of the story that has yet to be told. I have a message for you-- come forward. Tell us what happened. Tell us what you know. You can call the Community Press hotline at 541-622-9483.

In July 2012, we displayed 213 shoes along the parade route (sorry runners, we really didn't mean to cause you any trouble), one shoe representing each of Ashland's homeless

people. We wanted to put out a visual reminder of the poverty that exists right here on our own sidewalks. Roughly one hundred of those homeless who were counted that year were children who were enrolled in the Ashland School District. Let that sink in for just a minute.

Since then the city of Ashland partnered with Options for Homeless Residents (OHRA) and Access to provide financial support to open up the Community Resource Center (572 Clover Lane, Ashland). This is a place where homeless people can have an mailing address, backpack storage, referrals to other agencies, access to restrooms, a place to get out of the July heat and rest tired feet and much more. We're hearing about success stories of people who are finding employment and housing and getting off the street. That's a positive step towards real solutions.

Kindly,
Vanessa Houk



We get letters....

Local looking for monarchs
The day I met the Goat Man

Hi there, Tragedy of tragedies today. Our Monarch larva was found floating in the water of the shot glass that held it's milkweed plant (lesson learned, no more water beyond moistened paper towels or foil around stem), but still moving. I'm afraid the trauma of rescue may spell its demise. It was about 3/4" and we'd had it for about a week. Sad, sad. I checked online and discovered that no one ships (by regulation) west of the continental divide, so I'm wondering if you have any caterpillars that need a good home or know of anyone who does? We'll keep searching the plants, which we do daily, but our 4 year old is very sad (not sure if it's worse for him, or for me who experienced the magic many times as a child on the central California coast).

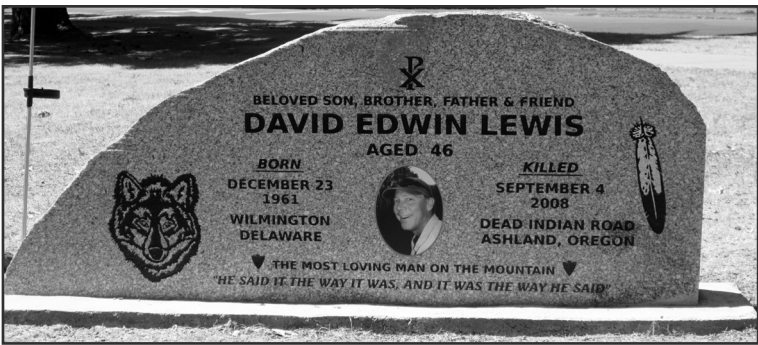
Thanks.
Tim

Editors note: Readers, if you can help Tim out please let us know and we will connect you. editor@rvcommunitypress.com Thank you!

Many years ago, me and a friend went for a ride on Upper Tolman Creek road riding Honda 50's.. This was the 1960's and a person could rent Hondas for the day at gas stations. As we neared the top we came upon an elderly gentleman in overalls, with a gray dirty beard. He had a sandwich in one pocket and he me and my friend a bite. We said, "no thank you". He had some goat milk. Me and my friend parked our Hondas and started walking. That's when we came upon a large bumble bee. He chased us for a few minutes, refusing to give up. We would hide and soon the buzz of that bumble bee would be above us. We got on our Hondas and got away from that bumble bee. We stopped and started walking again. Thats when we came upon some rocks with fossils in them of leaves, sticks, shells, etc. This was a great walk and Honda ride that day.

Best wishes to all.
Gordon Self
Talent Oregon
Gordon will be 71 on August 14th.

Send your letters to
editor@rvcommunitypress.com



Memorial stone on the end of Normal Ave.

Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your local resource for social justice news. We don't pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Published monthly, it is available through subscription, and local retail locations. The opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editorial staff or advertisers. Is your voice missing in RVCP? What's on your mind? We're listening! Send us your story ideas, articles, letters to the editor, guest opinions, poetry or artwork for publication. We welcome unsolicited submissions. We especially welcome articles covering local topics and events. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. If there are topics you would like to see covered, you can send ideas and feedback to the same address.

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Life

Losing Maya

BY VANESSA HOUK

Frankly I’m a little off kilter this month. The news of the great Maya Angelou’s passing, combined with several school shootings leaves me feeling depleted. I remember when my father passed away, one of my first thoughts was that I wasn’t sure how to get by in a world without him in it and it turns out that Maya’s steady wisdom on how to exist in a world that seems so wrought with violence, takes me right back to that reflection-- how on earth are we all going to make sense of all of this, without the calm, warm voice of Maya Angelou to help us see bits of light shining in the darkest places? I don’t know. When I look back through old issues of our Community Press, I see that I quoted Maya repeatedly as as her words were a balm against so much of what we exposed and often they felt like a sense of balance against the

very real and painful injustices these pages are full of. Especially when so much of what we talk about here boils down to how badly we treat one another as we explore topics such as poverty, food security,a lack of access to health care, immigration reform, the privatization of our public resources and I can’t help but imagine all of those things stacked up like heavy boulders that we know must be moved out of the way, but hey our backs ache and there never seems to be enough of us standing together with our shoulders pressed against the cool grey slate, working to heave them forward inch-by-impossible-inch. As we kicked off the month of June, more families were blown apart by multiple school shootings; the first at a university in Seattle, way too close to where my own daughter attends school. So close in fact that when I heard about it, there were a few seconds when the pit of my

stomach sank to the floor as I tried to sort out and understand what happened and I have to admit that I did a quick check in with her, just to make sure she was okay, much like when she was little and I would sometimes pass by the door of her room late at night for a quick feeling of peace, only these days the “door” is social media and that peace seems to dissipate much faster than it used to. And I know how lucky I am. I think about 19 year old Paul Lee’s family as they begin to try to reinvent a life without their son. Lee was a first year Seattle Pacific University student and a Portland area native, who was described by friends as being easygoing and positive. Lee’s death came at the heels of an elementary school playground shooting of a 10 year old Wisconsin girl who remains critically injured. Three days after that incident, six people were shot and killed near the

University of Santa Barbara. After each shooting, each act of violence, public outcry echoed across the United States and then as if it is cyclical, another community is ripped apart by violence. How can we make sense out of that? We can’t. Every act of gun violence stains our own lives with fear as violence edges closer as it did for all of us here in the Rogue Valley when 14 year old Emilio Hoffman was shot and killed by another student at Reynolds High in Troutdale,a handful of days before Oregon schools let out for summer vacation. Another mother’s tears. More lives forever changed and another community altered by one more rampage and a tragedy in a Portland suburb becomes critical mass on the issue of gun violence in this country. The outcry echoes and we won’t let it fade. We can’t afford to insulate ourselves from feeling

this, the comfort of forgetting one more time. I’ve thought about how it feels like we’re trying to chip away at these obstacles, word-by-word, action-by-action, but these days I lean against the boulders of my own mind, choosing to see those slabs as stepping stones rather than the looming barriers they pretend to be and what I’ve learned is that the radical act of changing my own perspective somehow makes that fear compress. All of that makes me want to turn towards those warm words again. “I’m convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they’re stones that don’t matter. As long as you’re breathing, it’s never too late to do some good,” Maya Angelou said.

Life lesson

BY MERRIE BECHTOLD

On the eve of my D.C adventure, I am reminded of the man who filled the shoes of the father I never really had. I can feel my Grandpa as though he is sitting next to me, and perhaps in a miracle-like way, he is. I was 15 and like most at that age I was inappropriately cocky. Grandpa owned vineyards. Cesar Chavez represented the labor force who picked his grapes. There was a strike and fruit was rotting on the vine. I boasted and regurgitated an off color remark I’d heard in town. Big mistake! He lead me to his truck by my ear, ‘urged’ me in and swiftly drove me to a Workers Camp. From the outside they were a collection of cute, little cottages. Without hesitating he jumped out of his truck flung my door open and looked me eye to eye. “We can do this the easy way, or I can stretch your ear”. Our first cottage walk through was horrifying! No stove, no cupboard, no counters, no sinks, no toilets, no showers or baths, no heat...There were holes in the floors,walls & ceiling for all of these items and that was it. No plumbing to connect anything. Still a stubborn 15 year old, his wisdom forced me through two more cottages exactly as the last and then forced me to observe the families who were being ‘families’ regardless of their situation.

Nothing has ever touched my ‘Fairness” button as much as that afternoon. We rode home in silence. I was so ashamed. Upon arrival he turned the truck off and just sat there quietly. Finally, “Never, ever-ever assume you are better than the next”. He got out of the truck and went inside. I sat there until I could find my feet. I walked the mile home vowing though tears “to never forget”. Grandpas grapes got picked that year when many rotted. He came in after negotiating with Mr. Chavez stating that he’d rather work with ‘Mexicans’ than “Old Man Gallo” who was, according to Grandpa, “the most arrogant man I’ve ever met”. I go to D.C. because I promised “to never forget”. Miss you Gramps! Merrie Bechtold and Pedro Rivera of Oregon Action traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this month to join a delegation of folks around the country who asked congress to pass immigration reform. “I’m going to Washington, D.C. today to stand with city leaders and business owners from small towns and rural communities around the country. Our voices have not been heard. Together we will tell congress to pass immigration reform now.” said Pedro Rivera, as he was preparing to board the plane.

Game of Thrones withdraw? Try Shakespeare.

BY ASHLAND SLIM

Are you going through Game of Thrones withdrawal? If you’re into tragic dramas heavy on dialogue and violence, Shakespeare may be the next author you want to watch. If you’ve only read Shakespeare and haven’t seen his better works performed, you’re really missing out! You may have seen one of his comedies or know the story of Romeo and Juliet, but there is a very dark side to Shakespeare they don’t teach in high school. Many of his plays are just a game of thrones... they include tons of wars, murders, political scheming, family members killing each other, the most gruesome deaths imaginable, and of course plenty of revenge and despair. If you’re able to see a show performed, it transforms the experience because the actors can communicate with emotion and movement what you may not completely comprehend in the text. Shakespeare was obviously a genius and almost every line has many meanings; it can be studied endlessly, but his plays was meant to be seen, not read. This summer, the Oregon Shakespeare Theater is presenting Richard III, the king you love to hate. With the War of the Roses as a rich backdrop, Richard III is the story of a cunning royal reprobate so deformed in body and spirit that



Photo via OSF

even his mother rues the day he was born. Richard III, so ugly “dogs bark at him,” was King of England for two years, from 1483 until his death in 1485. His defeat at Bosworth Field, the last major battle of the Wars of the Roses, rang down the curtain on the Middle Ages in England. His path to England’s throne is murderous. He rules with a tyrant’s fist. He’s backstabbing

and bloody. Yet he is so mesmerizing that we dare you to look away. Director James Bundy says of Richard, “a character of astonishing malevolence and wit, but also, in the end, a mortal as frail as any of us and just as subject to the cruelty of others.” Richard III runs through October 13th. Tickets available at the OSF boxoffice. For details, osfashland.org.

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Applause & Hiss





In January 2013, President Obama issued a number of proposals aimed to curb gun violence including measures that were designed to strengthen background checks and an outright ban on military style rifles. “The Federal Government is not going to come in and seize one gun here in Jackson County, as long as I am sheriff here,” bellowed Sheriff Mike Winters as made it clear that he would ignore executive orders.

Earlier this month Winters gave a short statement on the shooting of 74 year old Earl Harris He said that Harris was known for being “anti-government” for hanging the US flag upside down.

Remember that the President is commander-in-chief and the structure of command dictates that a county sheriffs office answers to that office. So clearly if we are casting out an “anti-government” net, Winters would be tangled in it.



Hobby Lobby is not a church. It's a business. Businesses must and should be required to comply with neutrally crafted laws of general applicability... We are a nation that respects religious beliefs, but also the right not to have those beliefs imposed upon you by others. ~ George Takei



Send your Applause and Hiss to editor@rvcommunitypress.com

It's paradise (if you can afford a bed to sleep in)

Police in Honolulu regularly ticket the homeless for being homeless. Ronnie Cruz, age 34, told the New York Times that he's been issued four tickets for standing on the sidewalk with his belongings. “Happens all the time,” he said. “They won't let you stand over there.”

The city council is discussing legislation that would make it lawful for police to roust anyone who is lying down or sleeping in a public space (sounds a lot like the Rogue Valley).

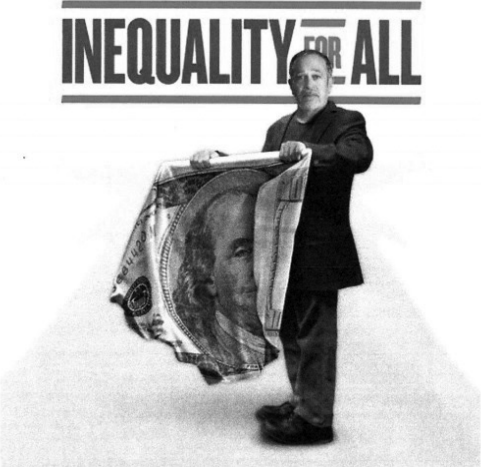
Hawaii's Governor Neil Abercrombie calls it “compassionate disruption”, a term that Jerry Jones the Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless says is “a pretentious phrase to dress up an ugly policy — sending the police to round up poor people isn't compassionate.”

Another one bites the dust! A Sou bookstore from independent to cookie cutter

The SOU campus has a new tenant, Barnes & Noble. The corporation has been edging their way onto college campuses in an effort to improve their bottom line and to compete with the likes of Amazon. Watching our state universities resources become a notch in a corporations belt is disappointing, especially in a small community that values mom and pop shops.

The National Association of College Stores estimates that the average student spent \$711 at their own campus store in the 2011-12 academic year, and that sales in the entire college store market were worth \$10.45 billion that year. Barnes & Nobles, by comparison, did \$7.1 billion in total sales in fiscal year 2012, of which \$1.7 billion came from its college division.

From Robert Reich, former US Secretary of Labor, comes a humorous and enlightening exposé on America's widening income gap.



The Jefferson Center is pleased to present a free showing of this timely and important documentary film.
Sunday, July 13, 2014 – 4:00pm
Community Center
59 Winburn Way, Ashland

U.S. has most expensive, least effective health care system

BY LENNY BERNSTEIN

A report released in June by a respected think tank ranks the United States dead last in the quality of its health-care system when compared with 10 other western, industrialized nations, the same spot it occupied in four previous studies by the same organization. Not only did the U.S. fail to move up between 2004 and 2014 — as other nations did with concerted effort and significant reforms — it also has maintained this dubious distinction while spending far more per capita (\$8,508) on health care than Norway (\$5,669), which has the second most expensive system.

“Although the U.S. spends more on health care than any other country and has the highest proportion of specialist physicians, survey findings indicate that from the patients’ perspective, and based on outcome indicators, the performance of American health care is severely lacking,” the Commonwealth Fund, a New York-based foundation that promotes improved health care, concluded in its extensive analysis. The charts in this post are from the report.

The data for the 2014 report was collected before the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) went into full effect, so that reform may eventually boost the U.S. out of last place by providing health insurance to some of the 50 million people who lacked it. But, according to the study, the problems of our health-care system remain so pervasive that it will take more than better access and equity to resolve them.

Karen Davis, a professor in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins

University and lead author of the study, said overall improvement “is a matter of accountability, having information on your performance relative to your peers and being held accountable to achieving a kind of care that patients should expect to get.”

The United Kingdom, which spends just \$3,405 per person on health care, placed first overall in the comparison of 11 nations that include Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, France, Germany and others. (Previous surveys examined smaller numbers of nations.) In 2004, the U.K. ranked third of the five nations studied. “They’re not your grandmother’s national health service any more,” Davis said.

The U.K. diagnosed its health care system’s problems and addressed them, Davis said. “They really have moved up over time. A lot of it has been systematic attention to increasing resources in the system,” she said. Officials hired more specialists, gave bonuses to family physicians who meet quality targets and adopted health system information systems that allow physicians to easily share information about patients. And everyone has a doctor.

The United States, on the other hand, “ranks behind most countries on many measures of health outcomes, quality, and efficiency. U.S. physicians face particular difficulties receiving timely information, coordinating care, and dealing with administrative hassles,” the report concludes. The U.S. is beginning to catch up as it responds to financial incentives to improve health information systems, and Obamacare should strengthen that effort.



Citizens for Peace & Justice

www.cpjmedford.org

CPJ MISSION

- Embracing peace within ourselves.
- Calling peace into conflicted lives.
- Promoting a just and peaceful community.
- Educating ourselves and others on alternatives to violence.
- Educating ourselves and others on social justice issues.
- Protesting wars, war-like actions, and unjust laws and unjust actions.
- Building a world beyond war through nonviolent means.

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CPJ & Occupy Medford Film Nights:
7 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month
Adams Room, Medford Library

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For more information email or call:
Allen Hallmark
hallmark@gmail.com; 541-897-0135

Building a Culture of Peace in Ashland

Join the call for a City Commission

The Culture of Peace Initiative - Ashland arose from the community celebration called Global Feast for Peace last September 21. Its mission is to assure that Ashland “identifies itself as a culture of Peace, both as a commitment to itself and a self-presentation to the world.” A major goal is to create a Culture of Peace Commission as an integral part of city government. You can help by signing onto the campaign at <http://www.cpi-ashland.org/> The website provides more information about CPI-Ashland, including its

other goals, and how it integrates with worldwide efforts. When you endorse the creation of a city commission, you can also post your thoughts about the meaning of a culture of peace. Here is what community activist Jeff Golden had to say: “What might not be obvious about this bold proposal is how effectively practical it could be. Imagine a city where a difficult conflict brings to the table not just the usual suspects--the public safety officials, the planning department, the city manager--but also citizens

well-trained in the disciplines of listening and peaceful conflict resolution. Imagine the creativity, effectiveness and durability of the solutions they might generate. Imagine the creative citizens, normally on the sidelines because of their distaste for most civic challenges, who would step up to engage in community life. Ashland could be the lab that develops an approach that the whole country is waiting for. Let's do it.”

Films showcase uranium’s impact

Two films showcasing the impact of uranium mining on native americans will be shown on August 12th at 7 PM. in the Medford Library, Adams Room.

The Return of Navajo Boy, is an internationally acclaimed documentary that reunites a Navajo family, triggers a federal investigation and later results in a mandated cleanup of uranium contamination on Navajo land. It tells the story of Elsie May Cly Begay, whose family history was captured in rare footage and photographs dating from the 1930’s. A long lost brother reads news about an old silent film, and begins the discovery of his clan in an emotional reunion in Monument Valley.

This film is an example of Groundswell Education Film’s unique model of documentary filmmaking coupled with an ongoing public awareness campaign to empower affected communities. To continue

drawing attention to their issues, Groundswell equips people with video cameras, multi-media tools, and opportunities to speak at film events, conferences, on campuses, and in the media nationwide.

Charmaine White Face, Oglala Sioux, speaks about little-known impacts of abandoned uranium mines on people and land in the Great Northern Plains. She reports on a study done by Dr. K. Kearfott , Nuclear Physics Professor, University of Michigan, showing Native Americans in her region hae the highest cancer rates in the U.S. White Face is an elegant voice in the Clean Up the Mines campaign to require clean up of the over 10,000 abandoned sites in the U.S.

The films are presented by Medford Citizens for Peace & Justice and Occupy Medford. The films are free and the public invited.

MRG funds social change in southern Oregon and beyond

BY VANESSA HOUK

The McKenzie River Foundation (MRG) has deep roots in strengthening grassroots groups that are making a difference in our community. From independent radio stations (including our own KSKQ 89.5 FM) to groups that empower Latino youth (UNETE), MRG provides grant money that funds a wide range of non-profit programs.

“MRG is all about funding groups and working with the people on the ground who are experts on what’s not working for them,” says Sharon Gary-Smith, Executive Director. “People on the ground are recognizing something about the system that is not working and that we can organize with each other to create change.”

While there are several other foundations in the state of Oregon, MRG was the first one to declare that they were there to fund social justice work. “Our agenda is justice,” Gary-Smith said. “We have four main focuses which are the pillars of what we do. They include racial, social, environmental and economic justice.”

Other places fund maintenance and social services and she was quick to acknowledge their importance in providing direct help, but what makes MRG special is that they invest in change rather than maintaining the status quo.

“Often our voices are the least heard, but they are the most powerful!”, says Gary-Smith.

The deadline for the next general fund grant cycle is August 29. First time applicants should call Cris Lira, MRG grants manager (503-234-2338 in Portland or 1-800-489-6743). Groups that have not been funded by MRG Foundation previously must talk to grants staff before an application will be sent. Visit mrgfoundation.org for more information.

Last month, MRG awarded grants to twenty-one grassroots social change groups across the state. These groups were selected by MRG’s activist grantmakers and among the grantees are some of Oregon’s most innovative groups

Of the groups funded this month, 43% are led by people of color, 38% by low-income folks, and 71% by women.

MRG Foundation just awarded \$225,000 to twenty-one amazing groups across Oregon. Including five emerging groups who just received their first MRG Foundation grant! Both established and emerging groups are working throughout Oregon on a wide variety of intersecting issues and they each have tremendous potential to create long-term systemic change in their communities.

Oregon Action, Medford and Portland: \$15,000 Oregon Action is a multi-racial organization dedicated to advancing economic justice in Oregon. Their Rogue Valley

Active

CONTINUED FROM 1

involve itself militarily in Iraq or Syria. US military intervention, whether directly or by providing arms, will increase the suffering of people in those countries and enhance the risk of a wider regional conflict.

Call the Congressional Switchboard now 1-202-224-3121 and ask for the offices of Sen. Wyden, Sen. Merkley and Rep. Walden. Tell Your Member of Congress to oppose US Military Intervention in Iraq or Syria. Call the White House Switchboard (202) 456-1111 and let President Obama know you oppose military intervention of any kind in Iraq or Syria and urge him to seek a diplomatic solution.

Immigration Reform

This November, the new Oregon Driver Card will be on the ballot. If passed, this bill will allow all Oregon residents, regardless of immigration status, to apply for a ‘Driver Card’ once they pass a driver’s test and prove their identity. It will help reduce barriers to driving legally in Oregon. A person applying for a Driver Card will need to meet all requirements for the driving privilege, including providing proof of their identity and date of birth, proof of residency in Oregon in excess of one year, a social security number if one has been assigned, and pay all required fees. The person must also take any tests that are required for the specific driving privilege.

The law passed in 2013 with bipartisan support and has been referred to the voters in the November 2014 election. The Oregon immigration rights organization Causa is urging voters to vote “yes” in November. They are also looking for volunteers this summer to help educate other about this important issue. For more information visit causaoregon.org.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership

TPP is a massive new international trade and investment pact being pushed by the U.S. government at the behest of transnational corporations. The TPP and the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) - would offshore our tax dollars, killing more American jobs. Thankfully, it is not too late to stop this madness! Working together, millions across our nation have stalled the TPP and “Fast Track” trade authority so far. But we will not win unless your Representative and both of your Senators commit to oppose Fast Track and TPP. If you see them at your local July 4th event, ask them for a commitment. Tell them to protect “Buy American” and “Buy Local” in ALL trade agreements. Call 202-225-3121 Get Your Representative & Senators to Commit to Oppose Fast Track Trade Authority and TPP

Social Justice Who’s Who

Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice - SOJwJ brings together labor unions, religious congregations, student groups and community organizations to improve working peoples’ standard of living, job security and their right to organize. They hold public meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM at 258 A Street #5. For more information visit www.sojwj.org

Health Care for All Oregon - HCAO is the a coalition of more than eightyorganizations representing labor, businesses, health care professionals, faith communities and groups of diverse citizen activists around the state. HCAO is working to create a comprehensive, equitable, publicly funded, high-quality, universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and in the United States. Their meeting are once a month in Phoenix, Oregon. For more information visit hcao-rv.org

Rogue Valley Oregon Action educates, organizes and mobilizes low and moderate income people and people of color in Jackson and Josephine counties (Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass) to address systemic causes of injustice. Their campaigns include voter registration, education, and get our the vote, immigration reform, “Ban the Box” and Anti-Racist Organizing for Rural Communities For more information call 541-772-4029.

Rogue Valley Vets for Peace is an educational and humanitarian organization of veterans and the people who support them who are dedicated to increasing public awareness of the costs of

FEATURED EVENT

Nuclear safety talk

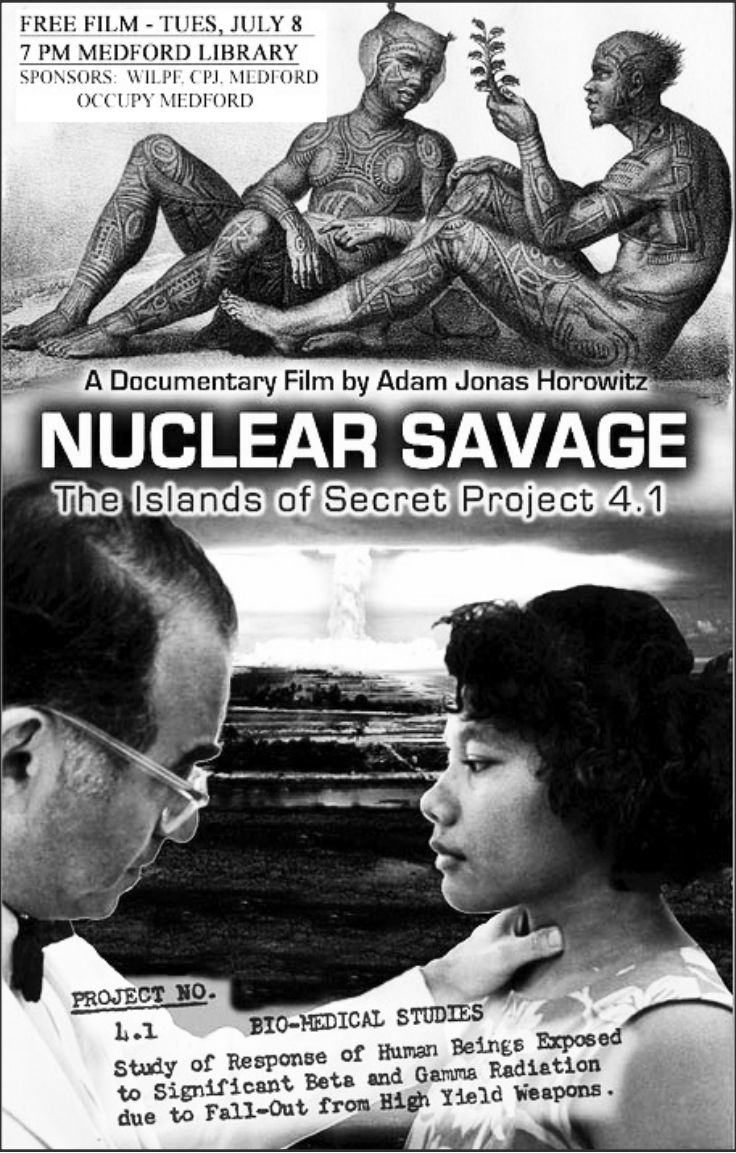
Charles K. Johnson, Director, Joint Task Force on Nuclear Power for the Oregon and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility will be speaking Saturday August 2nd at the Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 87 4th. in Ashland.

Johnson’s talk “**Nuclear Power & Nuclear Weapons, The Hanford Connection**” will discuss current issues that affect the nation and the Northwest, including radiation safety, Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and the direction of nuclear weapons and power today.

His talk will be the first event of this year’s 29th Vigil. This year’s theme is “Stop the Madness: Create A SANE World.” The vigil will begin with an opening ceremony at the entrance of Lithia Park at 8 am on August 6th Maze display will be on the plaza beginning at 9 am Wednesday, August 6th at 7 pm on the plaza. There will be a closing ceremony in the Japanese Gardens in Lithia Park at 8 pm on Saturday August 9th.

Charles Johnson’s talk is sponsored by the Ashland Branch of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and the 2014 Hiroshima Nagasaki Vigil Committee. For more information contact Jill Mackie 541-488-9286 or see atomicvigil.net. The event is free and open to the public.

ACTIVE, 9



MRG, 10

A collective haiku writing project commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

BY NINA EGERT

Haiku “is like a slightly-open door, where you may steal into the realm of poesy.” With these words, the poet/scholar, Yone Noguchi, held open the possibilities of cross-cultural understandings to American poets, when he first introduced haiku to the US in a 1904 article. Actually, at the time Noguchi wrote his article Japan and the Western world were already engaged in a process of cultural cross-fertilization. In the art world, this was called “Japonisme.” The Emperor consolidated political power as the Japanese people began to flirt with 19th century Euro-American ideas and technologies. Sadly, this set Japan on a political course that a little less than a century later would result in the dropping of the first atomic bomb. As a teenager, Yone Noguchi had been part of an experimental English language class at Keio University. Entranced with the language, the seventeen-year-old hopped a ship for San Francisco, arriving in the Bay Area in 1894. Other Japanese expats had preceded him to the Bay Area -- many of whom were involved in political activism- though not always on the same side of an issue. Just after Noguchi arrived in the States, Japan went to war with China over control of the Korean Peninsula. His expat colleagues were also concerned about the American annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. Noguchi became embroiled in writing and editing a political paper, until he ran off to the Oakland hills to become a recluse poet studying under Joaquin Miller. Miller, himself, was one of a crowd of early politically radical writers (including such luminaries as Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Ina Coolbrith, Charles Warren Stoddard, Edward Markham, John Muir, and eventually a young Jack London.) Noguchi was well positioned to straddle both the American literary and political world. Noguchi eventually left San Francisco to join the East Coast literary scene. As did most writers of his time he later took an excursion to Paris. Until that point, Noguchi had been striving to develop writing skills in imitation of his favorite American poets. In Paris he came to realize that Japanese culture was having a huge impact upon Western artistic ideas: the French Impressionists had embraced the compositional dynamics of Japanese block prints and other Japanese aesthetic elements. The 1904 article on haiku was meant to suggest that Western writers similarly

incorporate Japanese poetic sensibilities into their works. However, even as his article on haiku was being published, Noguchi was preparing to return to his homeland, which now at war with Russia over other territorial disputes. Once Noguchi was no longer in the States to press the issue, only one friend, Ezra Pound, embraced his proposal to experiment with haiku. The assimilation of Japanese poetry into Western culture had to wait till after World War II. The rest of the world was slowly gearing up for a half century of war. Back in Japan Noguchi taught at Keio University on American culture and literature, and published several articles and books in English explaining Japanese art and culture to Americans. Sadly, geo-political forces already at work undermined Noguchi’s efforts to expound cross-cultural understanding. At that time, Russia, China, and Japan were still feudal lands ruled by emperors. They wished to prove themselves as viable military powers, equal to their European equivalents. To that purpose they vied among themselves for smaller sections of disputed lands (the roots of today’s territorial conflicts.) The Japanese emperor laid claim to Korea, Manchuria, parts of the Chinese mainland, not to mention the US-held territories of the Philippines and Hawaii. He felt they were Japanese lands that had been unjustly taken over by other countries. By the time that Japan invaded Southern China (aka “the rape of Nanking”) in 1937, the US was at such odds with his country that Noguchi could no longer find American journals willing to publish his writings. If Americans regard the bombing of Pearl Harbor as “the day that shall live in infamy”, at the time the Japanese perspective was that America had annexed the Hawaiian islands, which were Pacific territories that should either have remained independent or belonged to Japan. When Americans today take the perspective that Japan “deserved” to have the atomic bomb dropped on it, they are in denial of the international aggressions committed by the US in the late 19th century. Americans might do well to understand how the US annexation of the Philippines and Hawaii, as well as Perry’s forceful entry into their own country, fueled Japanese offensive military actions during the war. This perspective counterbalances the usual image of egomaniacal

FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT!

**Fight, fight, fight,
Thou Japanese soldier,
Thy glory—thy golden glory
Be as high as Fuji Mountain’s top !
Fight, fight, fight,
’Thou Japanese soldier,
’Tis thy Mikado’s command,
’Tis thy nation’s mind.
Fight, fight, fight,
Thou Japanese soldier,
Thou art born of fire and surging seas,
Thou art born of the hottest blood and steel,
Thou art the Japanese sword,
Thou art the sword of the Judgment Day.
Fight, fight, fight,
Thou Japanese soldier,
Fight, fight as the tempest,
Fight, fight as the sun the clouds,
Yea, thou art born of the rising sun,
Yea, thou art the Eastern Light,
Yea, thou art the new-born prophet,
Yea, thou art Triumph and Life.
Fight, fight, fight,
Thou Japanese soldier,
Fight, fight, fight !**

YONE NOGUCHI.

Noguchi was not immune to the sentiments of the times. As he expressed in his book of poems, co-authored with Miller, Japan of Sword and Love.

desire for imperial expansion portrayed in American wartime and post-war narratives. Of course, this begs the ethical question as to whether nuclear weapons should have ever been used at all. That issue aside, as soon as the war was over, and American forces began to occupy Japan, the cross-pollination of cultures began in full. G.I.’s brought with them their dance music, their food, their free-wheeling attitudes; they returned to the US entranced by kimonos and kites, geishas and other elements of Japanese aesthetics. (And in the meantime, Noguchi’s American-born son, Issamu, was infusing Japanese sensibilities into stage, furniture, and architectural design.) Shortly thereafter a group of disaffected young poets began looking to the East to satisfy something missing in their own culture. Previous generations of writers had moved westward to California, Oregon, and Alaska- in search of gold and adventure. They rode the rails as tramps, in momentary gestures of asceticism. As portrayed by Jack Kerouac in the Dharma Bums, they were yogis on a spiritual path. Having reached the Pacific, the Beat Generation looked further westward to Japan. In the stark, cold bareness of Zen monastery life, the disaffected young Americans began writing haiku. From the published writings

of the Beat Poets, the haiku finally caught on around the world. Today, for better or worse, poets everywhere use the three-line, seventeen syllable poetic form to express everything from

traditional sensibilities regarding nature to jokes about team sports. What better way to express one’s thoughts about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki than using the well-loved Japanese poetic form? Now the citizens of Ashland and their guests have an opportunity to add their collective efforts to this long list of poets. This year, as part of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom’s annual vigil in Lithia Park on the anniversary of the bombings (August 6-9), the public is being invited to add their own haiku to poems that will be part of the exhibit on the Lithia Park Greens. For individuals unfamiliar with the form, two presentations on the basics of writing haiku will be offered August 7 and 8 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Ashland Plaza. Some of the poems will be read at the closing ceremony on the event, on Aug 9 at 7 pm in upper Japanese Garden in Lithia Park. Other poems will be collected, edited, and published as seems fitting to the material.

俳句

HAIKU IN JAPANESE

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom

From World War I through the 21st century, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom stand together on issues of social justice, racial equality, and women’s rights. WILPF members have included Nobel Peace Prize Laureates such as Jane Addams, Dr. Linus Pauling, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Ashland branch of WILPF is a community of local women working together towards a common goal of peace and justice. Ashland WILPF are sponsors of the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil and International Women’s Day Celebrations. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 1PM at the Ashland Library and are open to the public.

For more information, contact Jill Mackie at (541) 488-9286 or email: jmackie@mind.net

Women’s Power to Stop War

Hiroshima / Nagasaki Vigil Aug. 6- 9 2014

Fukushima’s Children

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN

Some 39 months after the multiple explosions at Fukushima, thyroid cancer rates among nearby children have skyrocketed to more than forty times (40x) normal. More than 48 percent of some 375,000 young people—nearly 200,000 kids—tested by the Fukushima Medical University near the smoldering reactors now suffer from pre-cancerous thyroid abnormalities, primarily nodules and cysts. The rate is accelerating. More than 120 childhood cancers have been indicated where just three would be expected, says Joseph Mangano, executive director of the Radiation and Public Health Project. The nuclear industry and its apologists continue to deny this public health tragedy. Some have actually asserted that “not one person” has been affected by Fukushima’s massive radiation releases, which for some isotopes exceed Hiroshima by a factor of nearly 30. But the deadly epidemic at Fukushima is consistent with impacts suffered among children near the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island and the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, as well as findings at other

commercial reactors. The likelihood that atomic power could cause such epidemics has been confirmed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, which says that “an increase in the risk of childhood thyroid cancer” would accompany a reactor disaster. In evaluating the prospects of new reactor construction in Canada, the Commission says the rate “would rise by 0.3 percent at a distance of 12 kilometers” from the accident. But that assumes the distribution of protective potassium iodide pills and a successful emergency evacuation, neither of which happened at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl or Fukushima. The numbers have been analyzed by Mangano. He has studied the impacts of reactor-created radiation on human health since the 1980s, beginning his work with the legendary radiologist Dr. Ernest Sternglass and statistician Jay Gould. Speaking on the Green Power & Wellness Show, Mangano also confirms that the general health among downwind human populations improves when atomic reactors are shut down, and goes into decline when they

CHILDREN, 9

Ashland to host Cuba Caravan

BY MARY ANN JONES

The Rogue Valley is anticipating the arrival in Ashland of the Pastors for Peace 25th Cuba Caravan on Saturday July 12. The event welcoming the Caravan is at the Presbyterian Church, Siskiyou Blvd at Walker, with a social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30, and program at 7:30. Local musicians, including the Afro-Cuban drumming and dance group Las Senoras Locas, will add to the festivities. A speaker traveling with the group will highlight current events in Cuba, the role of the Caravans, and possible impending changes in US policy toward Cuba. All are welcome; for information call 541-482-8915.

The travelers will be hosted in Ashland overnight and will then continue their journey, stopping each night in a different town, en route to a weekend orientation in McAllen, Texas. Ten routes of the Caravan will go from north to south through the US, some even starting in Canada. On the way they’ll visit more than 100 US cities, collecting humanitarian aid and holding educational events about the realities of life in Cuba. The aid collected for Cuba is mainly medical and educational supplies, but also computers, tools, and sports and cultural equipment. Some of the vehicles used on the Caravan are donated to Cuba, for use by churches and community centers who need transportation for groups. The aid is distributed by a national organization of Cuban churches, according to need. During their ten-day program in Cuba participants will visit hospitals, schools, neighborhood clinics and organic farms. They will meet some of the young scientists, doctors, teachers, social workers, artists and community activists who are at the forefront of developing Cuban society. Caravan members will learn about the problems caused by the fifty-year US blockade, which violates international law by denying food and medicine to Cuba. Further provisions fine businesses in other countries which trade with Cuba, and pressure corporations throughout the world not to trade with her. An item made in any country may not be sold to Cuba if it contains a single part manufactured in the US. Cubans have been forced to deal creatively with these challenges. The Caravan purposely visits Cuba without seeking or



The Cuba Caravan on their annual travel across the US.
Photo by: Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization

accepting a license from the US government, as an act of civil disobedience protesting the blockade and the travel ban. The travelers are acting as ambassadors for a “people-to-people” foreign policy, based on mutual respect and appreciation of each others’ cultures. Efforts to subvert the Cuban government continue. It was recently discovered that the US had covertly established a Twitter-like social media network designed to gradually identify those who might oppose the government, with the purpose of encouraging social unrest. The network, ZunZuneo, was abruptly abandoned when funding through USAID ran out in 2012. In another example of US-based attempts to undermine Cuban sovereignty, four Miami men arrested in Cuba this spring admitted that they were planning attacks on military installations. Three of the Cuban Five, political prisoners, are still incarcerated in US jails for trying to protect their people against US-organized terrorism against Cuba. Two of the Five, Rene Gonzales and Fernando Gonzales, are now free in Cuba after serving fifteen-year sentences resulting from a highly-flawed trial, in which jurors and perhaps the judge herself were intimidated by local sentiment in Miami. Meeting with the families of the Five is always an especially touching event for Caravan participants. See National Committee to Free the Cuban Five at www.freethethefive.org. The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), the parent organization of the Cuba Caravan, has an additional vital connection with Cuba. The Latin American School of Medicine near Havana, where

students from more than 100 countries are receiving a free and complete medical education, currently includes 114 students from the US. Visiting the school, and especially speaking with the US students there, can be a highlight of the Caravan experience. Co-directors of IFCO Gail Walker and Fr. Luis Barrios visited these students in March and brought materials they had requested to help prepare them for their board exams when they return to the US. The only obligation of these newly-graduated doctors is to practice in medically under-served communities in their home countries. Eight recent US graduates of the program have just received word that they have been accepted for three-to-five-year residency programs in US hospitals. Strongly motivated students in this country, especially those in less affluent areas with few doctors, are encouraged to apply for this program. For more information contact the program coordinator at ifcomed@igc.org. Obtaining accurate and balanced information about Cuba continues to be a challenge in the US. However, two books by Canadian researchers published in 2013 are excellent resources on Cuban affairs. **WHAT LIES ACROSS THE WATER** by Stephen Kimber recounts the inside story of the Cuban Five, and investigates decades of US-sponsored, unrelenting efforts to undermine Cuban society and derail the economy. Reviewers have termed the book a “narrative nonfiction thriller.” Kimber is a professor of journalism at the University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

CUBA, 13

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION AND HONOR

Grandma Agnes Baker Pilgrim

Local Grandmother Aggie of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers www.agnesbakerpilgrim.org



Please join us for a beautiful night of Music, Art, Prayer and Community to create an abundant offering for our Native Elder, Grandma Aggie.

Thursday, June 26
7:00 PM - 12:00 AM

*Grandma Aggie will be giving a prayer at 7:30 PM

Seven Seeds Farm, 3220 East Fork Rd., Williams, OR
directions: www.sevenseedsfarm.com

Music to follow, featuring Diane Patterson Band, Windsong Martin, Al Song Wolf Torre, David Kai, and other special guests.

Live Painting to be added to silent auction by Lindy Kehoe Paintings

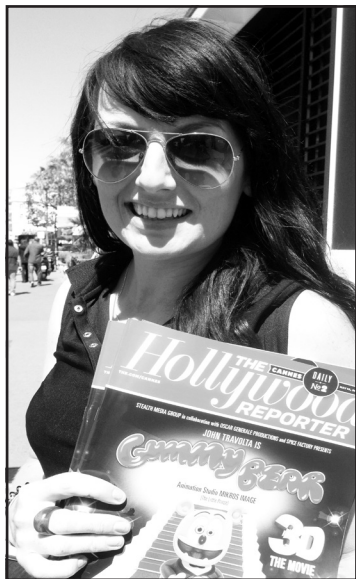
Feel free to join us for a community potluck at 6:30pm and walk the gardens and be there in time to hear Grandma Aggie open with a prayer.

***Silent Auction by the community~~ if interested in donating to this, send an email to don@siskiyouseeds.com

\$15, children free • All Funds to support Grandma Aggie
For more information email @ don@siskiyouseeds.com

Karen Jeffery's Occupy the street

Whereby our roving reporter takes timely questions to people on the street.
Our fearless columnist is traveling this month in the south of France and visited Cannes during the famed Film Festival to ask everyday people what they thought of the event this year. [Much of this was translated from French by our reporter, so quotes may not be exact.]



Aine Kavanagh.
Lives in Cannes, from Ireland. Teaches dance and yoga, handles events. Today working for Hollywood Reporter.

“This town has great energy, especially during the Festival. I love it! Year round I have three jobs. This week only one. And I got an invite to the Vanity Fair party, so I’m over the top!!”



Felix Vellegas.
Cannes. Official Festival Committee, Screen International - handing out guides, etc.

“I’m lucky. I have year-round work here...all leading up to these 10 days. Wow! Today it’s really crowded. Cannes is so busy. Peule.”



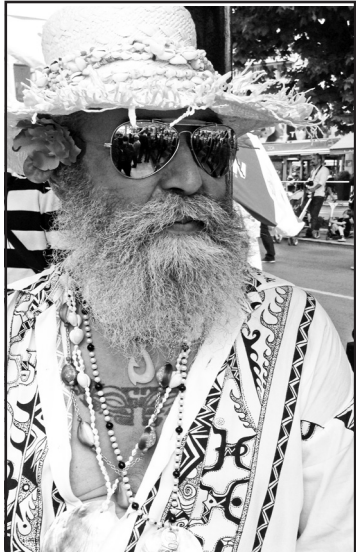
Sebastian Dewsbery.
lives in Paris (from London). Cameraman for France 24 (24-hour news channel)

“I’m just here three days for the Festival, and I think it’s interesting. I got to do a private viewing for Chopard, official jewelry for The Festival, and a private party last night, and both were phenomenal. I’m sorry, madame, I have to work.”



Francoise Scoftudcer.
Waitress. Cannes.

“Beaucoup du monde et ici. All these people are good for business, especially after our slow winter. These two weeks of crazy kick off our busy season, so everything’s better until September. And we love journalists. Thank you for coming!”



Teva. Moorea,
French Polynesia. Retired pirogue/la pesche (boat-maker, fisherman)

“It’s shit! There are too many people. I’m here on vacation, but look! It’s just Crazy!! (we got talking Tahiti, and I made a new friend:-) Bien venue. Bisous.”



Sally Kimball.
Palm Beach, Florida (here on Silver Seas line) Owns a high-end consignment shop - Classic Collections.

“Oh, the Festival is fabulous! It brings an extra level of excitement to an already exciting town. Celebrities. Fashion. Fun. I’m off to Rome during my last week on the cruise, but will remember Cannes.”



Karen Jeffery is a writer, editor, photographer, activist, publicist and resource. Reach her at mauitutu@gmail.com or follow her blog at <http://travelswithtutu.blogspot.fr/>

Ashland Community Resource Center offers workshops, and back-to school program Callout for community sponsors

BY JASON HOUK

The Ashland Community Resource Center (ACRC) is a centralized office located in Ashland that offers services and resources for low income residents, homeless, at-risk individuals and families. ACRC is organizing for their Fall Kickoff Family event and Back to School Gala on August 27 from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The event will offer a community potluck BBQ, fun and games for the kids and a program on how to prepare foods found at the food bank. ACRC is collecting Back to school items - backpacks and school supplies, for distribution in the community. Organizers are looking for faith groups and community partners to support the Back-to School collection. For more information or to volunteer call 541-631-2235 or email: acrc@accesshelps.org Other community programs planned for the fall include ‘Ready to Rent’, a class that prepares renters to be a good tenant. The Ready to Rent program gives landlords a reason to trust renters with bad history.

Successfully completing the class can help a overlook an eviction or poor rental history. The program will benefit college students and folks with no rental history. Another program is ‘Financial Literacy’ - which offers a basic understanding of debts, operation of a budget, and balancing a checkbook. The program is designed to help people understand what it means to be a person with expenses and not a dependant. Other training include Basic Nutrition Program and Cooking Demo through Access, Ashland Food Bank and the Resource Center. The Ashland Community Resource Center is located at 572 Clover Lane in Ashland. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Services provided include case management, service referrals, restroom access, backpack storage, mailing address, internet access, use of phone, job search-related printing, hygiene supplies, bus passes, education opportunities and more.

New lending library at Lotus Rising Resource Center

In a digital age where we can become so easily saturated by media, as we continue to fight the uphill anti-bullying battles in schools and online, while we grapple with each teen suicide we read about in the news every year, LRP is an invaluable place to create a little glue in the life of someone seeking support. “Social media has not replaced print. Many youth still read books for self-validation and to educate themselves. Still, our library serves the entire community of all ages, which includes those who were not raised on social media and who value books. Our library contains books of

historical significance, including a record of our LGBT history. Readers will find that history in our library, including feminist texts, among others. Also, we feature an extensive fiction section for self-affirmation and entertainment of queer readers,” says Board President Julian Spalding. “All texts in our library deserve to be preserved as the voices of generations past and present.”

**Hours: 3-5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Woolworth Building,
29 N. Central Ave., Medford
877-577-2244
www.lotusrisingproject.org**

BE THE MEDIA!
**If you have an event,
announcement or call to action,
LET US KNOW!**
Email to editor@rvcommunitypress.com
or call our hotline 541-622-9483.

Children

CONTINUED FROM 9

open or re-open. Nearby children are not the only casualties at Fukushima. Plant operator Masao Yoshida has died at age 58 of esophageal cancer. Masao heroically refused to abandon Fukushima at the worst of the crisis, probably saving millions of lives. Workers



More than 48 percent of some 375,000 young people—nearly 200,000 kids—tested by the Fukushima Medical University near the smoldering reactors now suffer from pre-cancerous thyroid abnormalities, primarily nodules and cysts.

at the site who are employed by independent contractors—many dominated by organized crime—are often not being monitored for radiation exposure at all. Public anger is rising over government plans to force families—many with small children—back into the heavily contaminated region around the plant.

Following its 1979 accident, Three Mile Island’s owners denied the reactor had melted. But a robotic camera later confirmed otherwise.

The state of Pennsylvania mysteriously killed its tumor registry, then said there was “no evidence” that anyone had been killed.

But a wide range of independent studies confirm heightened infant death rates and excessive cancers among the general population. Excessive death, mutation and disease rates among local animals were confirmed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and local journalists.

In the 1980s federal Judge Sylvia Rambo blocked a class action suit by some 2,400 central Pennsylvania downwinders, claiming not enough radiation had escaped to harm anyone.

But after 35 years, no one knows how much radiation escaped or where it went. Three Mile Island’s owners have quietly paid millions to downwind victims in exchange for gag orders.

At Chernobyl, a compendium of more than 5,000 studies has yielded an estimated death toll of more than 1,000,000 people.

The radiation effects on youngsters in downwind Belarus

and Ukraine have been horrific. According to Mangano, some 80 percent of the “Children of Chernobyl” born downwind since the accident have been harmed by a wide range of impacts ranging from birth defects and thyroid cancer to long-term heart, respiratory and mental illnesses. The findings mean that just one in five young downwinders can be termed healthy

Physicians for Social Responsibility and the German chapter of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have warned of parallel problems near Fukushima.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) has recently issued reports downplaying the disaster’s human impacts. UNSCEAR is interlocked with the United Nations’ International Atomic Energy Agency, whose mandate is to promote atomic power. The IAEA has a long-term controlling gag order on UN findings about reactor health impacts. For decades UNSCEAR and the World Health Organization have run protective cover for the nuclear industry’s widespread

health impacts. Fukushima has proven no exception.

In response, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the German International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have issued a ten-point rebuttal, warning the public of the UN’s compromised credibility. The disaster is “ongoing” say the groups, and must be monitored for decades. “Things could have turned for the worse” if winds had been blowing toward Tokyo rather than out to sea (and towards America).

There is on-going risk from irradiated produce, and among site workers whose doses and health impacts are not being monitored. Current dose estimates among workers as well as downwinders are unreliable, and special notice must be taken of radiation’s severe impacts on the human embryo.

UNSCEAR’s studies on background radiation are also “misleading,” say the groups, and there must be further study of genetic radiation effects as well as “non-cancer diseases.” The UN assertion that “no discernible radiation-related health effects are expected among exposed members” is “cynical,” say the groups. They add that things were made worse by the official refusal to distribute potassium iodide, which might have protected the public from thyroid impacts from massive releases of radioactive I-131.

Overall, the horrific news from Fukushima can only get worse. Radiation from three lost cores is still being carried into the Pacific. Management of spent fuel rods in pools suspended in the air and scattered around the site remains fraught with danger.

The pro-nuclear Shinzo Abe regime wants to reopen Japan’s remaining 48 reactors. It has pushed hard for families who fled the disaster to re-occupy irradiated homes and villages.

But Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and the plague of death and disease now surfacing near Fukushima make it all too clear that the human cost of such decisions continues to escalate—with our children suffering first and worst.

Police body cameras reduce abuse

BY JASON HOUK

A Jackson County grand jury determined that two sheriff’s deputies were justified in killing Earl C. Harris, 73 during a forced eviction from his home on Mistletoe Road in Ashland. Harris was shot twice by Deputy Dave Penkava and a third time by Sgt. Jeremy Whipple. Deputies say Harris gave them no choice but to kill him when he refused to follow commands and brandished weapons.

We will never know exactly what happened during this tragic event, but we can certainly know what happens during future events with police body cameras.

Body cameras have become more common for police officers across the country as a way to protect both officers and citizens. In communities where police are using body cameras, they are reporting a drop in complaints. According KABC-TV in Los Angeles, police in Rialto, Calif., saw an 88 percent

drop in complaints against officers and a 60 percent drop in the use of force by officers after they started using the cameras.

“With technology now they’re able to get it down pretty small and yet have good quality picture and sound,” said Angela Cho, co-owner of Extreme Products in Clackamas. They offer a small wearable camera for \$65.00.

The Oregon branch American Civil Liberties Union has supported the cameras so long as departments have strict privacy rules are in place first.

“We would love to see the use of body cameras as a deterrent for police misconduct. I think more likely we will see it as a record in the event there is police misconduct,” said Becky Straus from ACLU Oregon.

Jackson County police and sheriff departments should purchase body cameras for all their officers.

For a small investment we can have peace of mind and security.

Active

CONTINUED FROM 5

war. They meet once a month. For more information, visit their website at: <http://rv-vfp156.org>

Occupy Medford meets every Saturday at 10:00 AM in the Medford library. For more information visit occupymedfordoregon.org.

Citizens for Peace and Justice is a local organization dedicated to building a world beyond war through nonviolent means. Medford CPJ Meets at 6:30 PM the third Tuesday of each month at the Medford Library (10th & Central), For more information visit www.cpjmedford.org

Staying Informed: The *Peace House Calendar of Events* is an digital newsletter that provide information about area peace and justice events. You can sign up for this newsletter at www.peacehouse.net.

Listen to **KSKQ 89.5 FM community radio**. Streaming

online at www.kskq.org. And always read the *Rogue Valley Community Press*. Find us online at www.rvcommunitypress.com.

Cuba

CONTINUED FROM 9

CUBA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS: Democracy in Motion by Arnold August presents a detailed and balanced analysis of Cuba’s electoral process, demonstrating that people’s

participation in politics and society need not be limited to US-based concepts of democracy. August, a journalist and lecturer based in Montreal, did extensive field research in Cuba from 2006 to 2012.



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ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS

Ag Dept. investigating bee die-offs across Oregon

BY JASON HOUK

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is investigating mass bee die-offs across Oregon that appear to be linked to pesticides. Residents of a north Eugene apartment complex found sidewalks littered with dead and dying bees, according to Rose Kachadoorian, pesticide regulatory specialist for the state Department of Agriculture. The residents said trees at the complex had been sprayed a day earlier. Outside a Target store in Wilsonville, tens of thousands of dead bumblebees, honeybees, ladybugs, and other insects were discovered blanketing the store’s parking lot. In the Portland area, beekeepers in several locations have reported entire colonies suddenly dying. “I noticed that there were hundreds of bees lying on the ground in front of the hives dead, which was shocking to me,” said Estacada beekeeper Jon Beaty. Beekeeper Dena Guzman of Sandy, noticed tens of thousands of dead bees in and around two of her eight hives. “I live in the middle of nowhere on a 60-acre sustainable farm,” she said. “We’ve had beehives here for four years and never had this happen.” Local beekeepers suspect aerial spraying of nearby nurseries and Christmas tree farms. Matt Reed, owner of Portland’s Bee Thinking beekeeper supply store blames pesticides. “When a honeybee colony dies en masse like that, usually it is pesticides,” Reed said. “A lot of them were dropping off the combs as I inspected them.” ODA investigators were at the site collecting bees, tree leaves and flowers for testing, Kachadoorian said. “We will consider this a number one priority.” The die-offs ironically occurred during “National Pollinator Week,” a designation of the U.S. Senate seven to raise awareness of the necessity of bees, butterflies and bats in pollination. According to recent data from Oregon State University, one in five of the state’s commercial honeybee colonies did not survive the winter. Pollinators, including bees, bats and butterflies, are responsible for about a third of the food supply. In Oregon, they pollinate \$500 million worth of crops. The Oregon Legislature this year created a task force to look at “pollinator health” and try to find ways to prevent bee die-offs.



The White House wants to save the bees

New initiative will combat the decline in pollinators

BY JUSTIN WORLAND

The White House created a new task force in June to study and combat the recent precipitous decline in the number of bees in the United States. The Pollinator Health Task Force will also undertake efforts to increase public awareness of the issue and boost conservation partnerships between the public and private sectors. “Given the breadth, severity, and persistence of pollinator losses, it is critical to expand Federal efforts and take new steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels,” President Barack Obama wrote in a presidential memorandum. The President’s announcement comes in response to a problem with grave implications for farmers and consumers. At least 90 commercial crops harvested in North America rely on honey bees including nuts, fruits, and vegetables, according to a White House fact sheet. Pollinators also have a profound economic impact: They contribute more than \$24 billion dollars to the U.S. economy. The plan announced on Friday, which includes measures to research the issue and develop pollinator habitats, marks the latest step in the White House’s attempt to address the decline. The President requested \$50 million to combat the program in his 2015 budget proposal.

Water resource design workshop

Water Resource Design Workshop July 26-28: 3 full days with Siskiyou Permaculture instructors Tom Ward, Melanie Mindlin and Karen Taylor where you will learn how to integrate and balance water resources on a small homestead including strategies for drought proofing, rainwater harvesting, greywater, irrigation district water use, small scale carbon farming and horticultural self-reliance based on careful use of water. Summer is a great time to design water systems in preparation for doing earthworks in the fall and harvesting rainwater for the following year. Held at Squawking Hawk Acres near Emigrant Lake. More information and registration at siskiyounpermaculture.com

MRG

CONTINUED FROM 5

chapter has a history of victories on health equity, immigrant and workers’ rights, and civic engagement. Oregon Action continues to advance social and economic justice in Southern Oregon through leadership development, coalition building, and grassroots organizing. **Rogue Climate**, Ashland: \$8,000 Rogue Climate is a Millennial-led organization that envisions a bold and diverse climate movement that empowers those most affected by environmental degradation. They’re developing emerging leaders, building collective power, and working to advance creative solutions to climate change and dismantle exploitative energy systems in Southern Oregon.

99% STRONG!

“In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice... the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1932

Come join the conversation and let’s work to achieve this long overdue goal.

Occupy Medford meets every Saturday at 10am in the Medford Library

www.occupymedfordoregon.org
email: occupymedford@gmail.com

Occupy Medford is a local non-partisan movement in solidarity with democratic movements around the world.

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD!

Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. As veterans, we draw on our personal experiences and perspectives to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Our members have served our country in all branches of the military. We hold meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM - details at our website: <http://rv-vfp156.org/>

We participate in local peace stands in public places, hold rallies, and march in the Grants Pass Boatnik and Ashland Fourth of July parades. Our local organization was formed in 2008 and serves Jackson and Josephine Counties in southern Oregon. We regularly join forces with other peace and social justice groups throughout the Rogue Valley and the country.

The national Veterans for Peace organization was formed in 1985, maintains offices in St. Louis, Missouri, and is opposed to all wars.

We are a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. For more information contact our president, Allen Hallmark, at hallmark3843@gmail.com.

ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS

SOU opens Raider Farm Stand Help support Rogue

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

On the campus of Southern Oregon University this summer, students will be selling produce at a weekly farm stand. The new “Raiders Farm Stand” is the latest offering from SOU’s Center for Sustainability, and students and faculty are thrilled to find this local produce on campus. SOU’s Center for Sustainability is a 5-acre Living Learning Laboratory, and home to newly planted fields of delicious vegetables and fruits. Ashland residents may have noticed all the recent transformations in building the city’s newest sustainable farm at 155 Walker Avenue. The produce offered at the

weekly Raiders Farm Stand is available for SOU students, staff and faculty, but only students receive deep discounts on all vegetables. As Outreach Director Sam Pennington-Vrsek explains, the produce is “sustainably grown and harvested for students by students.” Many of the students at the Center for Sustainability have been involved for months, and at the beginning of June the harvests and Raiders Farm Stand began . Sam continued, “we are providing an affordable healthy option for students who, especially at SOU, have a high risk of food insecurity and homelessness. It is great to have a physical presence on campus

now, where we can connect with students, staff and faculty.” The Raiders Farm Stand is open every Wednesday from 10am-1pm at the Stevenson Union Courtyard. Team members invite the SOU community to try the produce and learn about the exciting student-led projects at the SOU Center for Sustainability. The Center for Sustainability also hosts four weekly work parties at 155 Walker Avenue. Work parties are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8am-2pm and every Thursday from 2pm-8pm. For more information, email Sustainability@SOU.edu .

Valley food resources

Because nobody should go hungry

The Ashland Food Angels continues their daily work collecting food and clothing for those in need. Pamela Joy says, “we gather many boxes of food for Uncle Foods Diner on Mondays and Tuesdays, and we donate to the Ashland Emergency Food Bank six days a week. There are over a dozen other groups we give to on a regular basis, and you can read about these on our web site at ashlandfoodangels.org If there is anyone interested in seeing us in action, we can

arrange a short tour of our very small facility. You are welcome to email me to make arrangements for this, or if you are interested in donating time or money to the Food Angels.” **Uncle Foods Diner is seeking volunteers to help at the weekly community meal at the Methodist Church in Ashland.** They are looking for helpers who can volunteer anytime on Tuesdays between the hours of 3:0 PM to 6:30 PM.

VOLUNTEER 12

Rogue energy consciousness

BY ALAN JOURNET

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, The Oregon Climate Research Institute, and the US Climate Change Program have all released reports recently underlining the reality that climate change is happening here and now, we are responsible, and it is destined to compromise the livability of our planet for future generation unless we address it promptly. Collectively they provide sufficient evidence that the conclusions could only be disputed by someone ignorant of science or exhibiting malicious intent. On this issue, it is impossible to be too alarmist. Rogue Valley residents should understand what we are doing to cause climate change, and how we might address it. A March 2011 Rogue Valley analysis identified that our greenhouse gas emissions originate from three general activities: Fully 44% result from materials (clothes, shoes, food, appliances, cars, etc.) we buy that are produced elsewhere and shipped here, the energy cost of making them and shipping

them to us being assigned to us. The famous Earth Day motto ‘Reduce, Reuse Recycle’ is germane here. The less we buy, and the more locally made materials we buy, the less emissions we cause. Our Transportation in private or commercial vehicles and public transit along with the transport of locally made materials results in 32% of our emissions. Reducing our fossil-fuel based travel, and doing it more energy efficiently, will reduce this component. Finally, Energy production results in 24% of our emissions. About three quarters (= 18% of total emissions) of this is public utility or industrial power plant production of electricity consumed in our residences and businesses. It also includes natural gas we use for heating. Any reduction in our use of utility-generated electricity will likely reduce our carbon emissions. A December 2011 report evaluated how our region might increase reliance on clean energy while reducing our reliance on electricity generated from fossil fuel sources. Focusing on

Jackson and Josephine Counties, this indicated that we used about 3 million megawatt hours (mwh) of electricity in 2005. Of this, less than a third was derived from renewable sources (largely hydro-power), leaving over 2 million mwh hours derived from carbon polluting fossil fuels. The study also concluded that the combination of increased Biomass burning, Wind, Solar, Hydro power, Anaerobic Digestion could reduce our fossil fuel needs and thus our greenhouse gas emissions by a further 229,000 mwh. The study also concluded that increasing our energy use efficiency could have a far greater impact than all these renewable energy generation techniques combined, reducing our energy needs by 718,000 mwh annually. While increasing energy use efficiency does not generate energy, this analysis suggested that increasing efficiency could reduce our fossil fuel consumption (currently 2.1 million mwh) for electricity by (718,000 mwh) or little over a third. Meanwhile, if we added the renewable energy generation

potential suggested here, we could reduce the fossil fuel electricity need by about 900,000 mwh down to about 1.2 million mwh annually. This represents a reduction in our electricity fossil fuel need of about 43%. Since electrical energy generation accounts for about 18% of our regional greenhouse gas emissions, undertaking these steps could reduce our emissions 43% of that 18%: nearly 8%. While we cannot all install solar or wind generation to substitute for fossil fuel generated electricity, we should do it if we can. However, we can all address what is called ‘the low hanging fruit,’ namely increasing our energy use efficiency. The most effective ways to enhance our individual residential energy use efficiency are (in rank order): improvements in space conditioning (HVAC = heating, ventilation and air conditioning), water heating, and consumer electronics. These are followed by enhancing home office equipment and home lighting efficiency and then improving refrigeration. Meanwhile, in the industrial / commercial arena, the most

effective targets are lighting and HVAC again, followed by office equipment, food processing, external lighting, and refrigeration. Equally notably, while these efforts all require investment, ultimately they also save money. What each of us individually does will not make a colossal dent in saving the planet for future generations. Even if regionally we all do the maximum we ca do, the impact will not be sufficient. But, we are all, individually and collectively, confronted with a serious moral and ethical challenge. Should each of us take the moral high road and do the maximum we can do to protect this planet for future generations, or should we do nothing and just contribute further to the problem? The same question applies collectively at the city, county, state, and national levels.

Alan Journet is the co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action NOW alanjournet@gmail.com; http://socan.info

Climate Justice Summer Camp for youth

Ages 14-18 • August 14th - 17th

Want to spend time this summer learning how to be a climate justice activist?

Then join us for the Next Generation Climate Justice Action Camp!

This summer, the Civil Liberties Defense Center, The Ruckus Society, and Backbone Campaign are teaming up to present the Next Generation Climate Justice Action Camp - a camp for youth age 14-18 to learn the skills and knowledge they’ll need to be an amazing activist for the earth, as well as for the people and animals who inhabit it. If you attend, you will learn from frontline activists, experienced trainers, and a diverse group of mentors about things you don’t learn in school. How do you plan a protest? How do you work with the media? How do you deal with police officers? How do you connect with other concerned people? How do you start a new campaign? By the time you leave the camp, you’ll know how to plan a protest, assert your legal rights, and organize strong campaigns with your peers and the broader activism community. You’ll also know more about the history of social justice activism and the inspiring people who have shaped it-and who you can now follow in their footsteps and make your own mark.

Visit: <http://cldc.org/> and our Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/603778343054806/>
For more information and to apply to be a part of this summer’s Next Generation Climate Justice Action Camp.

Victorian medical practices at Beekman House

Learn about doctors, medicine, and health concerns in late 1800s Jacksonville when Historic Jacksonville hosts “Victorian Medical Practices” on Saturday, July 12, at Jacksonville’s 1873 Beekman House. From 12 noon to 4 pm, costumed docents will lead house tours focusing on Victorian health care, Beekman health issues and “cures,” and sanitation measures the family adopted. Lawn displays include a Civil War medical tent, medical artifacts from local archaeology digs; phrenology (skull reading); and Chinese medical practices. Admission: \$5, adults; \$3, seniors/students. 541-245-3650 or info@historicjacksonville.org.

MRG Foundation summer gathering

MRG Foundations’s annual summer gathering is a great chance to meet local groups doing incredible work in Lane County, connect with other like-minded advocates for social change, and enjoy some delicious treats. Join us on Sunday, August 3rd for MRG’s Social Justice Summer Party: When: 1pm-4pm on Sunday, August 3rd Where: Alton Baker Park, Shelter 1 632 Day Island Rd, Eugene, Oregon 97401 Food: Delicious bites generously provided by Navarro’s Latin Creole Kitchen and Alma Catering Come listen to MRG’s social justice playlist, movement songs that you can groove to! Be sure to RSVP today for one of the summer’s best gatherings! This event is free, all ages, and wheelchair accessible. So invite friends and family on Facebook to celebrate social justice with you! Sponsored by Eugene Human Rights Commission and Sustainable Wealth Management.

RVF2S connects farms and schools

Rogue Valley Farms to Schools connects local farmers with schools and families to their local farms. This simple concept holds great potential as a solution to two of the major challenges facing our society: concerns about the diet and health of children and the dwindling of small farms. By purchasing locally grown products, schools are able to serve fresher produce to students, create new markets for local farms, and incorporate exciting programs that meet state education standards. Farms gain a sense of community involvement by impacting the lives of children and becoming involved in agricultural education, while benefiting from increased sales. Visit the Rogue Valley Farm to School website to learn more about the programs offered in Jackson & Josephine Counties.

5th annual Siskiyou Challenge supports RVF2S

The Siskiyou Challenge is open to recreational and competitive racers. The event is a 6-leg multi-sport relay race that raises funds for Rogue Valley Farm to School. The race course is 46 miles in and around beautiful Ashland, Oregon. The Siskiyou Challenge begins and ends at ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum. The event will be Saturday, September 20, 2014 and registration will open in July. Festivities begin Friday afternoon with a BBQ at Emigrant Lake. Everyone is welcome. Athletes and volunteers are needed to make this event a success. All entry fees are fully tax-deductible as donations to support Rogue Valley Farm to School.

FEATURED FILM

Nuclear Savage

hosted by Citizens for Peace & Justice and Occupy Medford

Tuesday, July 8th, 7 p.m. in the Adams Room Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave.

“Nuclear Savage” is a documentary about U.S. nuclear bomb testing in the 1950s in the Marshall Island and its impact on the indigenous people who live there. A shocking political expose, and an intimate ethnographic portrait of Pacific Islanders struggling for survival, dignity and justice after decades of top-secret human radiation experiments conducted on them by the U.S. government.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Rabbi Lerner to keynote Peace House Awards Dinner

Rabbi Michael Lerner is best known for his founding of the magazine Tikkun, a progressive Jewish interfaith magazine dedicating to critiquing politics, culture and society. He started it with the intention of challenging the failure of the Left to understand the centrality of religious and spiritual concerns in the lives of ordinary Americans. In 2002, Lerner founded the Tikkun Community to engage in the public forum. His voice has become widely influential in interdenominational circles. The dinner will be on September 7th. At the dinner, Peace House will also honor several area activists for their achievements. 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner in the Rogue River Room of SOU’s Stevenson Union.

Former prosecutor to speak on failure of the “War on Drugs”

Inge Fryklund, a former prosecutor with the Cook County State’s Attorney in Chicago, will speak about the terrible damage the failed war on drugs has done. Fryklund is appearing under the auspices of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, an organization of enforcement agents, prosecutors, and other front-line soldiers in the War on Drugs who know its reality firsthand. Between 2004 and 2012 she also spent a total of five years in Afghanistan with the US Agency for International Development and as an advisor to both the US Army and the Marine Corps, where she saw the production end of opium-derived drugs. Her talk will be on Thursday, July 24th in the Community Room of the Medford Library at 7 p.m. Sponsors are South Mountain Friends Meeting (Quakers) and Citizens for Peace & Justice.

Volunteer

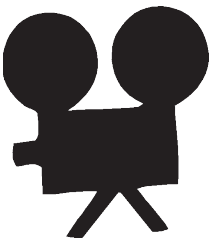
CONTINUED FROM 11

Cooks, servers, and clean up help is needed. Contact info@peacehouse.net. Ashland Food Project Donor Drive is seeking new food donors for the Valley-wide Food Project. How it works: You buy one extra non perishable item each time you shop--approximately eight items in a two-month period. On the second Saturday of each month, a neighborhood coordinator picks up the food from your doorstep and delivers it to the Ashland Emergency Food Bank. In the Medford area, the food is distributed to several nonprofits. For further info or to donate: www.ashlandfoodproject.com or foodproject@opendoor.com.

Attention Jackson County residents...

Klamath’s 2nd Annual Independent Film Festival

Klamath’s 2nd Annual Independent Film Festival will be held at the Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls, Oregon August 25th 2014. The theater is an 800 seat, genuine Art Deco movie theater renovated beautifully to serve as Klamath Falls’ cultural arts center. Organizers couldn’t be happier with the historic and cultural appropriateness of the venue.



- Guidelines:**
1. Films must be postmarked by August 1, 2014 as a standard DVD playable on any device. The filmmakers must be Oregon or California residents of Klamath, Lake, Jackson, Siskiyou or Modoc Counties. Limit 2 submissions per filmmaker.
 2. Films must have been made January 1, 2012 or later.
 3. Films should not exceed 25 minutes in length. An exception may be made if the film is especially good, but weight will be given to providing a variety of shorter films for a well rounded program.
 4. Filmmakers shall have all rights to, or have received permission to use, all video/ images, music and any other media contained in submitted films. Klamath Film Makers Group may contact the filmmaker to confirm rights or assume in good faith all rights have been acquired, and will not be held liable for such. See klamathfilm.org for more information.

Who ever said there is no such thing as a free lunch?

Ashland School District offers free lunch to anyone 18 or younger regardless of income. Just show up and eat.

Walker School - 364 Walker Ave, Ashland

From 12 PM - 1:00 PM Monday through Friday.

From July 12nd through August 22nd,

Adults are \$2. Book giveaways daily.



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